



# GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK

*"You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Hurry is the enemy of spirituality."*

*"Dost thou love life? Then don't squander time. For that's the stuff life's made of."* (Sir Walter Scott)

*"Let temporal things serve your use, but the eternal be the object of your desire."* (Thomas à Kempis)

*"It is never too late to start doing what is right."* (J. Allan Petersen)

*"The person who can read and doesn't has no advantage over the person who can't read at all."*

*"The Bible was written to be read. An unread Bible is like food that is refused, an unopened love letter, a buried sword, a road map not studied, a gold mine not worked."* (Irving L. Jensen)

*"God has not bowed to our nervous haste nor embraced the methods of our machine age. The man who will know God must give time to Him."* (A.W. Tozer)

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

MARCH 19, 2010



How's your "reading through the Bible in a year" going (for those of you that set a goal to do it this year)? I've found over the years that sometime around February or March, many of us get derailed from our original plan of "reading through the Bible in one year." I would encourage you to simply pick up where you left off (even if you are a month behind) and keep pursuing God through the reading of His Word.

*Satan loves nothing more than to get us so discouraged that we just "give up" and drop any form of Bible reading / study each day. Could I suggest to you that it*

is better to read through the Bible in a year and a half or two years than to not read it at all?

Maybe you didn't even attempt to read through the Bible at the beginning of this year, but would like to start now. As I've said before, with modern technology, you can simply go to your computer, enter what date you want to start reading through the Bible and it will generate for you a complete plan laid out over 365 days – beginning any day of the year. If you are interested in finding out more about how to do this, you can simply go to: [www.esv.org/biblereadingplans](http://www.esv.org/biblereadingplans).

Enjoy the daily journey of getting to know God more through the reading of His Word!

## WITCHCRAFT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

What would you do if you found out that your neighbor suspected their child of witchcraft, and subsequently kicked that child out on the streets? And then, what if you found out that this was happening in other parts of the community? That it was, in fact, far more widespread than you ever realized?

This situation is a reality in various parts of the **Democratic Republic of Congo**. Recently, *Christianity Today* ran an article covering this disturbing practice (entitled "Saving Witches in Kolwezi"), including interviews with local people and pastors who have dealt with children accused of witchcraft. The article reported that many children are abandoned and accused of

sorcery due to "parental neglect, birth defects, and disability."

A psychologist at the University of Lubumbashi explained to *Christianity Today* that a number of reasons contribute to these accusations of witchcraft. *"Among the chronic poor, parents may use witchcraft as an excuse to abandon their children to reduce the family's financial burden."*

The author went on to say that, *"tragically, some pastors attempt exorcisms in which they place children's hands in near-boiling water to purge 'spirits,' resulting in severe burns."* Due to the heavy influence of **African**

**Traditional Religion**, which is a mixture of animism (worship of the created order) and ancestor worship, many people who become Christians in Africa still are very influenced by these false beliefs, even pastors.

Church leaders in the DRC are deeply concerned about this issue, and were the initial contacts who invited *Christianity Today* to come and report on this problem.

These godly shepherds agreed that, *“the core problem is lack of training...”* One pastor made the point that **in areas where pastors have proper training, this type of child abuse does not go on.**

In conversations I’ve had with Christian leaders in the majority world, they have explained that in many developing countries, **the gospel is spreading so rapidly** that many individuals **become pastors out of**

**their zeal for Christ with little more than (and sometimes not even) a Bible in their own language.** As you can imagine, **great zeal mixed with little to no understanding of Christianity or church ministry** results often in **great harm** to people.

GTN exists to help provide **solid biblical training to pastors** in places just like the DRC. We are witnessing first hand **the transformation that happens** when God’s Word is properly and correctly taught and applied within the lives of pastors and their congregations!

As I’ve said before, training pastors is like *“dropping a pebble in a pond.”* You impact the greatest number of people when you impact the pastors and leaders within a community! Lives are changed for all eternity!

## THE GLOBAL ACADEMY FOR NEXT GENERATION LEADERS

I want to highlight an innovative approach to pastoral training that GTN staff members **Dr. Roland and Patricia Niednagel** have crafted over the last few years. They call it the **“Global Academy for Next Generation Leaders” (G-ANGeL)**. The Academy emphasizes a process that employs key learnings, action steps, life plans and peer coaching for prayerful follow through. Roland and Patricia have drawn from their extensive ministry experience to create the Academy curriculum, and their goal has been to make it reproducible, sustainable, contextualized and understandable.

God is using this “Global Academy” in some truly profound ways throughout the developing world. We praise God for how He is using Roland and Patricia to be a blessing to “the nations” (**Psalm 67:1-7**).

God has been so gracious to provide GTN with so many high quality staff members just like Roland and Patricia! All of our staff are being used by God in significant ways to genuinely encourage and equip indigenous church planters, pastors and Christian leaders in 36 countries around the world!

**Your partnership through prayer and financial support is making all of this possible.** *Thank you so much* for your kind and gracious partnership with GTN! Lisa and I want you to know that we greatly appreciate your involvement with this worldwide ministry.

We look forward to the day when *“people from every tribe, language, people and nation”* will stand before God’s throne and give Him the glory that is due His Name (**Revelation 5:9**)!

Let me leave you this month with these profound words from the book of Jeremiah...

*“Thus says the LORD, ‘Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things.’ declares the LORD.”* (**Jeremiah 9:23-24 NASB**)

*Our most recent family picture (can you tell we like plaid?)*



**P.S.** GTN will be implementing several new and exciting projects and ministry opportunities in the coming months. I’ll be updating you in future newsletters. God has been so good and gracious to GTN in our first five-plus years in existence! I look forward with great anticipation to what He has in store for our future. Please continue to uphold us in prayer!